



## James "Jim" Benson St. John

February 21, 1939 - April 26, 2019

Retired Colonel James "Jim" Benson St. John of Lexington, TX passed peacefully with his family by his side on April 26, 2019. He was born February 21, 1939 in Philadelphia, PA the only child of Robert Parsons St. John and Elizabeth Sullivan St. John. Jim graduated from Fort Madison High School and attended Iowa State University. He later completed his BS from Hampton University and received his Masters Degree in Business from Golden Gate University.

In 1959, Jim joined the United States Air Force where he served his country for almost 30 years. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War and was awarded numerous medals including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal. During his time with the Air Force he was able to serve at Langley AFB in Virginia and overseas at Wiesbaden AFB and Ramstein AFB in Germany. Jim was the Transportation Squadron Commander at Hurlburt Field, Florida and his final assignment serving as the Deputy Base Commander at Dover AFB.

Upon retirement from the Air Force, Jim and his family moved back to the beautiful beaches of Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Jim spent his free time boating, fishing, hunting and substitute teaching for the local high schools. He loved being able to share his military experience with his students so much that he decided to pursue teaching full time and taught for several years at

Fort Walton Beach High School.

In 2008, Jim relocated to Texas to be closer to his children and grandchildren. In 2013, he married Debbie Ruetenik of Lexington, TX. Jim and Debbie both love the outdoors and spent much of their time boating, fishing and hunting. Jim also enjoyed substitute teaching for the local high schools in the Lee County area.

He is survived by his wife Debbie Ruetenik; his children Robert St. John, James St. John (Jennifer) and Lara Jensen (Erik); and his grandchildren Colby St. John, Gabriella St. John, and Ethan Jensen.

The funeral with full military honors will take place at Fort Sam Houston Cemetery in San Antonio, TX on May 17th at 1:45 pm. Jim's family invites everyone to join them in celebrating his life at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club following the burial.

In lieu of flowers, the family recommends making memorial contributions to the Folds of Honor scholarship fund or a charity of one's choice.